GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1845
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2005
OIL WELLS
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil is not being extracted from a large number of wells in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the loss suffered by the Union Government as a result of non-functioning of these oil wells; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to make these oil wells functioning?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b) : The state-wise break up of sick and abandoned oil wells of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/Joint venture companies is as follows :

State/Offshore area	Sick oil wells	Abandoned oil wells non-flowing wells	Total
Assam	341	276	617
Andhra Pradesh	5	24	29
Arunachal Pradesh	11	10	21
Gujarat	263	148	411
Rajasthan	20	12	32
Tamil Nadu & Pondichery	17	21	38
Eastern Offshore	Nil	Nil	Nil
Western Offshore	41	7	48
Total	698	498	1196

(c) : At any point of time,, some oil wells in an oil field become sick mainly due to the need for maintenance, repairs or for other reasons. The process of servicing, repairing and reviving such sick oil wells is a continuous and dynamic one. However, even as some such non-flowing wells are put back on production, other wells get added to this category. Therefore sick wells cannot be considered a loss.

As far as abandoned oil wells are concerned, there is no loss to the companies /Government. A well is normally abandoned after considering factors like the oil flow rate from the well, the oil price scenario, the state of the reservoir, the physical condition of the well, etc. Thus, wells which may have become uneconomical to produce or which cannot produce because of their physical conditions are abandoned.

(d) : The following steps are being adopted to revive sick wells :-

- Suitable work over jobs;
- Installation of artificial lift;
- Well stimulation;

The companies either develop in-house expertise or take the assistance of international consultants/companies for taking up complicated repair/trouble shooting jobs by applying the latest state-of-the-art technology in this regard.